

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USDEL SALT TWO II

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1966

S E C R E T USDEL SALT TWO II 0174

EXDIS/ SALT

DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT FOR SEC DEF

E. O. 11652: XGDSI

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SCC MEETING

REF: USDEL SALT TWO- II 85

1. IN SALT ONE AND SALT TWO-1, DELEGATION REPEATEDLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO SCC AND REQUIREMENT FOR SCC TO MEET ASAP.

IT WAS OUR INSISTENCE ON REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS THAT FORCED THE SOVIET SIDE TO YIELD ON ITS INITIAL POSITION THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED SCC MEETINGS AND THAT SCC MEETINGS SHOULD BE CONVENED ONLY AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY ONE OF THE SIDES. THE SOVIET SIDE FINALLY AGREED TO HOLDING A MINIMUM OF TWO SCHEDULED MEETINGS EACH YEAR. THUS, IT WOULD APPEAR APPROPRIATE TO HOLD AN SCC MEETING IN MAY OR JUNE, WITH A SECOND MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED FOR THE FALL.

2. DURING THE INITIAL PHASE OF SALT TWO- II, THE SOVIET SIDE REPEATEDLY MADE INFORMAL REFERENCES TO ITS PREPAREDNESS TO HOLD AN SCC MEETING AT ANY TIME AGREEABLE TO ME AS THE DESIGNATED US COMMISSIONER. THERE WERE FREQUENT SOVIET SUGGESTIONS (PLUS MY OWN SUGGESTION TO SEMENOV, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL) THAT THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WOULD BE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE SCC BASED ON THE DRAFT REGULATIONS INITIALED AT END OF SALT

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TWO- I.

3. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE IS NO WASHINGTON DISAGREEMENT WITH THE VIEW THAT THE BASIC PARAGRAPHS OF THE SCC DRAFT REGULATIONS OF DECEMBER 21 ARE A SUFFICIENT BASIS FOR THE SCC TO BEGIN FUNCTIONING, AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT OF HOLDING A MEETING IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE DRAFT BASIC PARAGRAPHS AS THE SCC REGULATIONS. THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE AMENDMENTS, IF DEEMED NECESSARY, HAS BEEN AGREED TO IN ARTICLE XIII OF THE ABM TREATY. I BELIEVE THAT FAILURE TO HOLD AN SCC MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE COULD BE INTERPRETED BY THE SOVIET SIDE AS REFLECTING DIMINISHED US INTEREST IN THE SCC, AS WELL AS A DOWNGRADING OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE COMMISSION. THE FAILURE OF GENERAL USTINOV TO RETURN TO GENEVA AS WE WERE INFORMED TODAY MAY BE A TACTIC DESIGNED TO DRAW US OUT IN THIS REGARD. AN EARLY MEETING WOULD ALSO APPEAR TO BE USEFUL AS A DEMONSTRATION TO THE CONGRESS OF OUR INTENTION TO INSURE SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENTS NOW IN FORCE.

4. WHILE I SEVERAL TIMES MENTIONED SUBJECT DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THERE WAS NOT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY DEFINITIVE DISCUSSION. I WOULD HOPE THAT A PERMANENT COMMISSIONER AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COULD QUICKLY BE APPOINTED AND AN SCC MEETING HELD. HOWEVER, IF IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF A PERMANENT COMMISSIONER WILL CONTINUE TO BE DELAYED, I SUGGEST I BE INSTRUCTED TO MEET WITH GENERAL USTINOV AND MINISTER KARPOV AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THE SCC REGULATIONS. I WOULD PROPOSE TO REESTABLISH A JOINT WORKING GROUP FOR THIS PURPOSE AND WOULD DESIGNATE GRAYBEAL AND FITZGERALD, WHO NEGOTIATED THE SCC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND DRAFT REGULATIONS, PLUS OTHER DELEGATION PERSONNEL AS APPROPRIATE, TO THIS GROUP. JOHNSON

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